WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of distributing broadcast standard video footage to a plurality of users, the method comprising:

receiving video footage from one or more content providers;

processing the video footage to create a plurality of assets, each asset having a broadcast standard video footage and a preview version;

providing a user interface that allows a plurality of users to (a) access a plurality of preview versions via a network connection and (b) request delivery of broadcast standard video footage;

providing a plurality of delivery types for the broadcast standard video footage, the delivery types comprising at least three of a download via HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP), a digital push to a user-specified File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server location, a digital pull from a pre-determined FTP folder, a satellite transmission, and a mailing of physical media to the user;

receiving a user request to obtain a broadcast standard video footage, the user request identifying the broadcast standard video footage and a delivery type selected from the plurality of delivery types; and

fulfilling the user request.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein fulfilling the user request is performed automatically by computers.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the user interface is a web site, and the network connection is an Internet connection.

4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the broadcast standard video footage comprise Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG)-2 files.

5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the broadcast standard video footage comprise MPEG-4 files.

6.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising presenting snapshots of the preview versions in a plurality of categories on the user interface.

7.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising organizing assets into a plurality of stories for display on the user interface.

8.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

separating the video footage received from the content providers into a plurality of assets;

creating an asset record for each asset;

creating a preview version and a production version for each asset, the preview version and production version being selected from a plurality of formats; and

associating the selected formats with the asset record.

9.   The method of Claim 8, further comprising tagging each asset record with meta data.

10.   The method of Claim 8, further comprising making each asset available to an automated software process.

11.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

time coding an analog tape received from a content provider;

establishing a plurality of assets from the tape;

logging the tape into a media server;

generating a plurality of clips from the tape;

digitizing the clips with an asset ID; and

converting the digitized clips to a media player format comprising at least one of Windows Media File (WMF), Quick Time (QT) and Real Player.

12.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

registering a plurality of users by collecting information from each user; and

comparing the collected information with a database of broadcast media contact information.

13.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising creating a password protected FTP folder for a user for the digital pull delivery type.

14.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising presenting at least one of audio files, image files and text files associated with the broadcast standard video footage to the users on the user interface.

15.   The method of Claim 14, further comprising delivering at least one of the audio files, image files and text files associated with the broadcast standard video footage to the users.

16.   The method of Claim 14, further comprising organizing assets into a story to display on the user interface, each story comprising a broadcast standard video footage and at least one of an audio file, image file and text file associated with the broadcast standard video footage.

17.   The method of Claim 14, further comprising providing preview and production versions of at least one of the audio files, image files and text files.

18.   The method of Claim 17, wherein a preview version of an image has a resolution of X dots per inch and a production version of the image has a resolution of Y dots per inch, X being smaller than Y.

19.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising trans-coding the video footage into digital formatted assets.

20. The method of Claim 1, wherein the satellite transmission uses a Associated Press Television News (APTN) system.

21. The method of Claim 1, wherein the video footage from the content providers comprise at least one of analog tapes, digital tapes, satellite transmissions, DVDs and digital files.

22. The method of Claim 1, wherein the pre-determined FTP folder comprises an automatically created, user-specific, password protected FTP folder on a FTP server of a service provider.

23. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

compiling two or more broadcast standard video footages requested by a user into a compilation; and

delivering the compilation to the user.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the compilation comprises a single digital file.

25. The method of Claim 23, wherein the compilation comprises a single physical medium delivered to the user.

26. A system comprising:

a local media server;

a content processing system coupled to the local media server to receive video footage from one or more content providers, process the video footage and create a plurality of assets, each asset having a broadcast standard video footage and a preview version, the content processing system transferring the created assets to at least one of the local media server and a central media server;

a central media server in communication with the local media server and content processing system, the central media server being operable to store broadcast standard video footage;

a content manager application executable by a database server to manage the assets;

a web server coupled to the central media server to provide a web site that allows a plurality of users to (a) access a plurality of preview versions and (b) request delivery of broadcast standard video footage; and

a fulfillment application executable by the database server to provide a plurality of delivery types for the broadcast standard video footage, the delivery types comprising at least three of a download via HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP), a digital push to a user-specified File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server location, a digital pull from a pre-determined FTP folder, a satellite transmission, and a mailing of physical media to the user;

wherein the fulfillment application is operable to process user requests and deliver broadcast standard video footage according to a delivery type in the user requests selected from the plurality of delivery types.

27.   The system of Claim 26, wherein the broadcast standard video footage comprise Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG)-2 files.

28.   The system of Claim 26, wherein the broadcast standard video footage comprise Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG)-4 files.

29.   The system of Claim 26, further comprising a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server in communication with the database server and the central media server to deliver digital broadcast standard video footage to users.

30.   The system of Claim 26, wherein the content processing system comprises a trans-coding system to trans-code the video footage into digital formatted assets.

31.   The system of Claim 26, further comprising firewalls and user passwords to protect data in the central media server.

32. The system of Claim 26, further comprising a second local media server in a second production office separate from a first production office of the first local media server.

33. A method of providing media assets to users over a network, the method comprising:

receiving media content from content providers;

creating assets with previewable versions from said content;

providing an interactive interface that allows a plurality of users to preview said previewable versions of said assets, select assets, and request delivery of selected assets;

receiving a request from a requesting user to deliver one or more selected assets; and

transmitting said selected assets to a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server identified by said requesting user.

34. The method of Claim 33, wherein the assets comprise Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG) files.

35. The method of Claim 33, wherein said requesting user controls access to said FTP server, the method further comprising:

receiving access information for said FTP server from said requesting user; and

using said access information to access said FTP server.

36. The method of Claim 33, further comprising:

controlling user access to said FTP server;

allocating a memory portion of said FTP server to said requesting user;

transmitting access information to said requesting user, said access
information permitting said requesting user to access said memory portion so that said
requesting user can obtain said one or more selected assets.

37.   The method of Claim 33, wherein said assets comprise one or more of video,
images, audio, text, and an integrated combination thereof.

38.   A system for providing media assets to users over a network, the system
comprising:

one or more cooperating servers configured to store broadcast-standard
digitized versions of media assets, said one or more servers also configured to store
previewable digitized versions of at least some of said media assets;

a user interaction module   executable by said one or more servers, said user
interaction module configured to communicate over the network with a
communication module on a user computer to provide an interactive interface on the
user computer, the interactive interface allowing a user of the user computer to
preview said previewable versions of said assets, select assets, and request delivery of
said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets, said user interaction module
configured to receive a request from the user to deliver one or more broadcast-
standard versions of said selected assets to the user; and

a fulfillment module stored on said one or more servers, said fulfillment
module configured to transmit said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets
to a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server identified by the user.

39.   The system of Claim 38, wherein the FTP server is controlled by the user, the
user interaction module being configured to receive access information for said FTP
server from the user and to use the access information to access said FTP server.

40.   The system of Claim 38, wherein access to the FTP server is controlled by
said one or more servers, the fulfillment module being configured to allocate a memory
portion of the FTP server to the user and transmit access information to the user, the

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access information permitting the user to access the memory portion so that the user can obtain said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets.

41.   The system of Claim 38, wherein the communication module on the user computer comprises a web browser.

42.   The system of Claim 38, wherein the communication module on the user computer comprises a software application on a user desktop.

43.   A method of providing media assets to users via a satellite transmission, the method comprising:

receiving media content from content providers;

creating assets with previewable versions from said content;

providing an interactive interface that allows users to preview said previewable versions of said assets, select assets, and request delivery of said selected assets;

receiving a request from a requesting user to deliver one or more selected assets; and

provisioning a satellite transmission of said selected assets to said requesting user.

44.   The method of Claim 43, further comprising informing said requesting user of a time and reception channel at which said one or more selected assets will be transmitted.

45.   A system for providing media content to users via a satellite transmission, the system comprising:

one or more cooperating servers configured to store broadcast-standard digitized versions of media assets, said one or more servers also configured to store previewable digitized versions of at least some of said media assets;

a user interaction module executable by said one or more servers, said user interaction module configured to communicate over the network with a communication module on a user computer to provide an interactive interface on the user computer, the interactive interface allowing a user of the user computer to preview said previewable versions of said assets, select assets, and request delivery of said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets, said user interaction module configured to receive a request from the user to deliver one or more broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to the user; and

a satellite transmission system configured to transmit said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to the user.

46.   A method of providing media assets to users over a network, the method comprising:

receiving media content from content providers;

creating assets with previewable versions from said content;

providing an interactive interface that allows users to preview said previewable versions of said assets, select assets, and request delivery of said assets;

providing at least three options for delivery of said selected assets:

transmitting selected assets to a user-controlled File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server;

transmitting selected assets to an FTP server controlled by a service provider and sending access information to a requesting user, said access information permitting the requesting user to obtain said transmitted assets from the FTP server;

downloading selected assets via an HTTP protocol to a user-controlled computer;

provisioning a satellite transmission of selected assets to a requesting user; and

mailing physical media containing said selected assets to a requesting user;

receiving a request from a requesting user to deliver one or more selected assets, the request identifying at least one of said delivery options; and

transmitting said one or more selected assets to said requesting user by the one or more identified delivery options.

47.   A system for providing media assets to users over a network, the system comprising:

one or more cooperating servers configured to store broadcast-standard digitized versions of media assets, said one or more servers also configured to store previewable digitized versions of at least some of said media assets;

a user interaction module executable by said one or more servers, said user interaction module configured to communicate over the network with a communication module on a user computer to provide an interactive interface on the user computer, the interactive interface allowing a user of the user computer to preview said previewable versions of said assets, select assets, and request delivery of said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets, said user interaction module configured to receive a request from the user to deliver one or more broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to the user; and

a fulfillment module stored on said one or more servers, said fulfillment module configured to execute one or more options for delivery of said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets:

transmitting said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to a user-controlled File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server;

transmitting said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to an FTP server controlled by the one or more servers, the fulfillment module also configured to send access information to a requesting user, said access information permitting a requesting user to access the transmitted assets from the FTP server;

downloading said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets via an HTTP protocol to a user-controlled computer;

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provisioning a satellite transmission of said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to a requesting user; and

mailing physical media containing said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to a requesting user;

wherein the user interaction module is configured to receive a request from the user to deliver one or more of said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets, the request identifying one or more of the above-listed delivery options, the fulfillment module configured to transmit said one or more broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to the user by said one or more identified delivery options.

48.   A method of providing media assets to users over a network, the method comprising:

receiving media content from content providers;

creating assets with previewable versions from said content;

providing an interactive interface that allows users to preview said previewable versions of said assets, select assets, and request delivery of said assets;

providing at least three options for delivery of said selected assets:

transmitting selected assets to a user-controlled File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server;

controlling an FTP server and transmitting selected assets to the FTP server and sending access information to a requesting user, said access information permitting the requesting user to obtain said transmitted assets to the FTP server;

downloading selected assets via an HTTP protocol to a user-controlled computer;

provisioning a satellite transmission of selected assets to a requesting user; and

mailing physical media containing said selected assets to a requesting user;

receiving from a first user a preference description of one or more of said delivery options, said preference description including supplemental information for the service provider to transmit assets to the first user according to said one or more delivery options of the preference description;

receiving a request from the first user to deliver one or more selected assets; and

transmitting said one or more selected assets to said first user according to said one or more delivery options of the preference description.

49.   The method of Claim 48, further comprising allowing the user to change the preference description.

50.   The method of Claim 48, wherein said supplemental information comprises said first user's mailing address.

51.   The method of Claim 48, wherein said supplemental information comprises access information for an FTP server controlled by said first user.

52.   A system for providing media assets to users over a network, the system comprising:

one or more cooperating servers configured to store broadcast-standard digitized versions of media assets, said one or more servers also configured to store previewable digitized versions of at least some of said media assets;

a user interaction module executable by said one or more servers, said user interaction module configured to communicate over the network with a communication module on a user computer to provide an interactive interface on the user computer, the interactive interface allowing a user of the remote user computer to preview said previewable versions of said assets, select assets, and request delivery of said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets, said user interaction module configured to receive a request from the user to deliver one or more broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to the user; and

a fulfillment module stored on said one or more servers, said fulfillment module configured to execute one or more options for delivery of said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets:

transmitting said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to a user-controlled File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server;

transmitting said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to an FTP server controlled by the one or more servers, the fulfillment module also configured to send access information to a requesting user, said access information permitting a requesting user to access the transmitted assets from the FTP server;

downloading said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets via an HTTP protocol to a user-controlled computer;

provisioning a satellite transmission of said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to a requesting user; and

mailing physical media containing said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to a requesting user;

wherein the user interaction module is configured to receive from a first user a preference description of one or more of said delivery options, said preference description including supplemental information for the fulfillment module to execute the transmission of said broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to the first user according to said one or more delivery options of the preference description, the user interaction module also configured to receive a request from the first user to deliver one or more broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets, the fulfillment module configured to execute the transmission of said one or more broadcast-standard versions of said selected assets to said first user according to said one or more delivery options of the preference description.

53.   A method of providing media assets to users over a network, the method comprising:

receiving media content from content providers;

creating assets with previewable versions from said content;

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assigning each of said assets to one or more of a plurality of categories;

receiving an identification of one or more categories of interest from a first user;

sending to said first user an email message that identifies specific assets within said one or more identified categories, said email message including a hyperlink to a web page that describes said specifically identified assets and permits said first user to preview previewable versions of said specifically identified assets, select assets, and request delivery of said selected, specifically identified assets;

receiving a request from said first user for delivery of said selected, specifically identified assets; and

transmitting said selected, specifically identified assets to said first user.

54.   The method of Claim 53, wherein said web page includes a text description of the specifically identified assets.

55.   The method of Claim 53, wherein the email message includes a text description of the specifically identified assets.

56.   The method of Claim 55, wherein one or more of the specifically identified assets comprise video segments and the text description describes a plurality of individual scenes in said video segments.

57.   A system for providing media assets to users over a network, the system comprising:

one or more cooperating servers configured to store broadcast-standard digitized versions of media assets, said one or more servers also configured to store previewable digitized versions of at least some of said media assets;

a content manager module configured to assign each of said assets to one or more of a plurality of categories;

a user interaction module executable by said one or more servers, said user interaction module configured to communicate over the network with a

communication module on a user computer to provide an interactive interface on the user computer, the interactive interface allowing a user of the user computer to transmit to said user interaction module an identification of one or more categories of interest;

a messaging module configured to send to said user an email message that identifies specific assets within said one or more identified categories, said email message including a hyperlink to a web page that describes said specifically identified assets and permits said user to preview previewable versions of said specifically identified assets, select assets and request delivery of selected, specifically identified assets, the web page configured to receive a request from said user for said selected, specifically identified assets; and

a fulfillment module configured to transmit said selected, specifically identified assets to said user.

58.   A method of providing media assets to users over a network, the method comprising:

receiving video content from content providers;

creating video assets with previewable versions from said content;

providing an interactive interface that allows users to preview said previewable versions of said video assets, select video assets, and request delivery of said selected video assets;

receiving a request from a requesting user to deliver one or more selected video assets;

transmitting said selected video assets to said requesting user; and

transmitting to said requesting user text descriptions of a plurality of scenes in said selected video assets.

59.   A system for providing media assets to users over a network, the system comprising:

one or more cooperating servers configured to store broadcast-standard digitized versions of video assets, said one or more servers also configured to store previewable digitized versions of said video assets;

a user interaction module executable by said one or more servers, said user interaction module configured to communicate over the network with a communication module on a user computer to provide an interactive interface on the user computer, the interactive interface allowing a user of the user computer to preview said previewable versions of said video assets, select video assets, and request delivery of said broadcast-standard versions of said selected video assets, said user interaction module configured to receive a request from the user to deliver one or more broadcast-standard versions of said selected video assets to the user; and

a fulfillment module stored on said one or more servers, said fulfillment module configured to transmit said broadcast-standard versions of said selected video assets to the user, the fulfillment module also configured to transmit to the user text descriptions of a plurality of scenes in said broadcast-quality versions of said selected video assets.